(d) Not applicable in view of the reply to (c) above.

One Rank One Pension for Ex-Servicemen

†1793. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is extreme anomaly in the pensions of officers and employees of lower level ex-servicemen;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that ex-servicemen have been demanding constantly to implement the principle of "one rank one pension" to eliminate the anomaly and to bring equality in the pension;

(c) since when Government propose to make effective the principle of "one rank one pension"; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE): (a) There is no anomaly in pension of officers and employees of lower level ex-servicemen since both the categories have distinct terms of employment, pay, weightage in qualifying service, retirement age and method of computation of their pension and comparison across the same is not justified as they are not similarly placed.

(b) The ex-servicemen have been demanding constantly to implement the principle of "one rank one pension", but the same is not related to the perceived anomaly in pension of officers and lower level ex-servicemen.

(c) and (d) A Group of Ministers has been constituted to look into the matter.

Indian Troops in Foreign Peace Keeping Force

1794. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) in how many countries the Indian Defence Troops are participating as "Peace Keeping Force";

(b) the number of the defence staff (Commissioned/non-commissioned rank) deputed abroad in these operations; and

(c) how much money the Government of India has to spend on it?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Indian Defence troops are presently participating in four countries *viz.* Congo, Lebanon, Ethiopia — Eritrea and Sudan as part of United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping forces. Besides, Indian Defence personnel have also been deputed to the UN Mission in the Ivory Coast, Burundi and the UN Head Quarters at New York.

(b) The strength of defence personnel (both Commissioned/ Non-commissioned) deployed in various UN Missions, as on date, is 5961.

(c) the cost of deployment of Defence units in UN Missions is reimbursed by the UN as per agreed norms.

Appointment of Head of IDSA

1795. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) is headless for a year or so; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not appointing its head for such a long period?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The last Director of the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) completed his term of office on July 31, 2004. Pending the search and selection of a regular appointment to the post, the Deputy Director of the IDSA has been asked to officiate as Director. A 'Search Committee' was constituted by the President of the Executive Council of the IDSA to select a suitable person for the post. The 'Search Committee' has submitted its recommendations to the President of the IDSA. The recommendations are being processed for necessary approvals.